

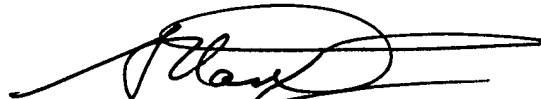
Remarks/Argument

In an advisory action mailed on April 13, 2004, it was noted that "Smith (6027945) and Breivik (6090935) each teach direct binding of nucleic acids to magnetic particles." Applicants respectfully traverse. Neither Smith (see column 4, lines 31-62) nor Breivik (see column 4, lines 5-24) disclose the direct binding of nucleic acids to the magnetically responsive particle as presently claimed.

Conclusion

The claims of the present application are believed to be in condition for allowance and early notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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